

**IN THE CLAIMS**

*Please find below a listing of all of the pending claims. The status of each claim is set forth in parentheses. This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.*

1. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying at least one node close to a first node in a network, comprising:

selecting a set of candidate nodes from a plurality of nodes based on location information for the candidate nodes and the first node, wherein the selection is made based on comparing a distance[[s]] from ~~each of~~ the first node and a distance from each node of the plurality of nodes to each one of a plurality of global landmark nodes;

applying a clustering algorithm, using a processor, to the location information for the candidate nodes and the first node; and

identifying a subset of the set of candidate nodes closest to the first node based on results of applying the clustering algorithm.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting a set of candidate nodes comprises:

comparing location information for the plurality of nodes to the location information for the first node to select the set of candidate nodes from the plurality of nodes closest to the first node.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving the location information for the first node at a node in a distributed hash table overlay network, the distributed hash table overlay network being a logical representation of the network including the first node and the plurality of nodes; and

storing the location information for the first node at the node in the distributed hash table overlay network.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
the first node hashing the location information for the first node to identify a location in the distributed hash table overlay network to store the location information for the first node;

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
receiving the location information for the plurality of nodes at the node in the distributed hash table overlay network; and  
storing the received location information for the plurality of nodes at the node in the distributed hash table overlay network.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
retrieving the location information for the plurality of nodes and the first node from stored location information at the node in the distributed hash table overlay network; and  
comparing the retrieved location information to select the set of candidate nodes proximately located to the first node from the plurality of nodes.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the location information comprises a distance[[s]] from each of the first node and a distance from each node of the plurality of nodes to at least one local landmark node proximally located to a respective one of the first node and the plurality of nodes.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein comparing location information for the plurality of nodes to the location information for the first node comprises:
- comparing global landmark vector portions of the landmark vectors for the first node and the plurality of nodes; and
  - selecting candidate nodes from the plurality of nodes having landmark vectors with a predetermined similarity to the landmark vector for the first node.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the at least one local landmark node proximally located to a respective one of the first node and the plurality of nodes is one of on a routing path between the respective node and one of the plurality of global landmark nodes and within a predetermined distance to the respective node.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- determining distances to each of the subset of candidate nodes from the first node; and
  - selecting a closest node to the first node from the subset of candidate nodes based on the determined distances.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

selecting a node from the subset of nodes based on at least one of distances to each of the subset of candidate nodes from the first node and quality of service characteristics associated with the subset of nodes.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the clustering algorithm is an algorithm operable to identify similarities between the location information for the first node and the candidate nodes.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the clustering algorithm comprises at least one a min\_sum, max\_diff, order, inner product algorithm, k-means, principal component analysis, and latent semantic indexing.

14. (Currently Amended) A node in a network comprising:

means for selecting a set of candidate nodes from a plurality of nodes based on location information for the candidate nodes and a first node, wherein the selection is made based on comparing a distance[[s]] from ~~each of~~ the first node and a distance from each node of the plurality of nodes to each one of a plurality of global landmark nodes;

means for applying a clustering algorithm to the location information for the candidate nodes and the first node; and

means for identifying a subset of the set of candidate nodes closest to the first node based on results of applying the clustering algorithm.

15. (Original) The node of claim 14, further comprising:

means for receiving the location information for the plurality of nodes and the first node; and

means for storing the location information for the plurality of nodes and the first node.

16. (Original) The node of claim 15, further comprising:

means for retrieving the location information for the plurality of nodes and the first node from the means for storing; and

means for comparing the location information for the plurality of nodes and the first node to select the candidate nodes.

17. (Original) The node of claim 14, further comprising means for transmitting a list of the subset of candidate nodes to the first node.

18-20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) Computer software embedded on a non-transitory tangible computer readable medium, the computer software comprising instructions performing:

selecting a set of candidate nodes from a plurality of nodes based on location information for the candidate nodes and a first node, wherein the selection is made based on comparing a distance[[s]] from ~~each of~~ the first node and a distance from each node of the plurality of nodes to each one of a plurality of global landmark nodes;

applying a clustering algorithm to the location information for the candidate nodes and the first node; and

identifying a subset of the set of candidate nodes closest to the first node based on results of applying the clustering algorithm.

22. (Original) The computer software of claim 21, wherein instructions performing selecting a set of candidate nodes comprises:

comparing location information for the plurality of nodes to the location information for the first node to select the set of candidate nodes physically close to the first node.

23. (Previously presented) The computer software of claim 21, wherein the location information comprises distances measured from each of the first node and the plurality of nodes to a plurality of global landmark nodes and to at least one local landmark node proximally located to a respective one of the first node and the plurality of nodes.

24-26. (Canceled).